

National Phase Application based on  
International Appln. No. PCT/IB2004/002480  
Attorney Docket No. 99759-NEW  
Amdt. dated February 1, 2006

REMARKS

As a result of the foregoing amendments, originally-filed Claims 4, 6, 7, 10, 12-18, 20 and 23 have been amended. More particularly, with the exception of Claim 20 (which contained a typographical error), these claims were amended to remove their multiple dependencies and to save filing fees. These amendments have been made to place these claims in better condition for allowance. Accordingly, Claims 1-24 are currently pending in this application. Examination and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

Amendments have also been made in the specification, including the deletion of the Abstract and replacement with a new Abstract. Amendments made in connection with Equations 13 and 17 and sub-equations 20.1 and 20.2 of Equation 20 recited in the specification were made to remove an Italian phrase from each equation and, in Equations 13 and 20, to replace the Italian phrase with an English translation thereof. The Italian phrases may have been inadvertently left in International Application No. PCT/IB2004/002480 when it was translated from the priority Italian Patent Application No. MI2003A001595. Applicants and their attorneys respectfully submit that no new material has been added as a result of the foregoing amendments.

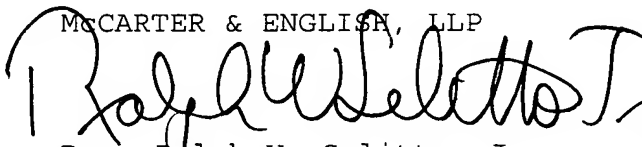
Applicants and their attorney thank the Examiner for his or her consideration of this Preliminary Amendment. Should the Examiner have any questions about this Preliminary Amendment, he or she is cordially invited to contact applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

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No fees are believed to be due as a result of this Preliminary Amendment. If any fees are due in connection with the submission of this Preliminary Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge them to Deposit Account No. 503571.

Respectfully submitted,

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